

There is More: Supporting Arts Education in our Schools

Key Talking Points – A Frame of Reference

Arts education develops the precise set of skills that are most competitive in the emerging global economy. Increasingly:

- Companies seek workers who can think creatively, solve problems, exercise individual responsibility, and interact effectively with others. Sociability and high self-esteem are key components of these skills, which are nurtured through an education in the arts.
- Creative industries (such as architecture, graphic design and entertainment) are growing rapidly in number and playing a powerful economic and social role.
- Nations that have been focusing on increasing their ranks of scientists and engineers are now seeking ways for schools to foster greater innovation and creativity.

91% of all voters say the arts are necessary to build imagination, and 81% of voters believe that a greater focus on the arts alongside science, technology, and math would better address the demands of the 21st century.

Arts are considered core content in the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) which reads, in part:

- “To support systemic education reform by strengthening arts education as an integral part of the elementary school and secondary school curriculum.”
- The arts share equal billing with reading, math, science, and other disciplines as “core academic subjects,” which can contribute to improved student learning outcomes.

Schools across America that are integrating the arts into the curriculum as part of a comprehensive education reform strategy are documenting positive changes in the school environment and improved student performance.

Research has shown that companies will choose to move to a state or region because of the creativity of its workers.

- People no longer follow jobs – instead they move to the most livable places, and jobs and companies follow them.
- Communities that want to remain economically strong should strive for a high level of arts learning.

For more information and sources, please contact Emily Kohring at the Montana Arts Council, ekohring@mt.gov, 406-444-6522 or visit our website: <http://art.mt.gov>. Click on Schools, then The Arts Improve Education.